

I. THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,293,067 to Thompson et al. (hereinafter Thompson). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The October 11, 2001 Office Action maintains the rejection as in the previous action, and in addition asserts Thompson teaches a delineated mounting surface, and a plurality of conduction sections 23 substantially delineating fabrication alignment.

The March 1, 2001 Office Action also maintains the rejection as in the previous action.

The June 20, 2000, Office Action actually states the rejection of claims 1-12 (circa June, 2000) as being anticipated by Thompson.

Specifically, regarding claim 1 (circa June, 2000) the Office Action asserts Thompson discloses a substrate 16 having a mounting surface for mounting a semiconductor device 10. A plurality of leads 20 are formed on the mounting surface and a plurality of conduction sections 23 are electrically connected to the leads 20 and provide an external terminal.

These assertions are respectfully traversed.

Further, in view of the current claims, and based upon amendments filed July 31, 2001, the rejections made in the October 11, 2001 Office Action are not supportable.

Specifically, under 102(b) the claimed invention (emphasis added) must be printed or described in a printed publication ... more than one year prior to filing date of the subject application.

The claimed invention is not asserted by the October 11, 2001 Office Action.

Furthermore, even if the claimed invention was asserted by the October 11, 2001 Office Action, which it clearly was not, and assuming *arguendo* that Thompson teaches a plurality of leads radially extending away from a peripheral area toward a central area of the

substrate main body, Thompson does not disclose or suggest a plurality of conduction sections each defining at least part of an external terminal with substantially rectangular contour lines, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 7.

Instead, Thompson only shows a specific and particular lead pattern comprising a plurality of leads 20, and through-holes 22. See, for example, Fig. 1.

However, the October 11, 2001 Office Action does not address the above features. Additionally, concerning contemporaneous assertions, the Action incorrectly asserts features which are wholly removed from the current claims, for example "delineating fabrication alignment" as a basis for the current claim rejections.

Accordingly, the current claimed invention must be the basis for any contemporaneous application of the prior art. Otherwise Applicant's representative cannot determine whether any further amendment is appropriate or necessary. The October 11, 2001 Office Action has not provided Applicant's representative with a contemporaneous application of the prior art to the claimed invention. Therefore, if additional rejections are asserted, the next Office Action shall not be made final.

Applicant asserts that Thompson does not disclose or suggest at least a plurality of conduction sections each defining at least part of an external terminal with substantially rectangular contour lines, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly in independent claim 7. Furthermore, Thompson does not even suggest delineation upon a substrate.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 7 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-12, which depend from independent claim 1, and independent claim 7 respectively, are likewise distinguishable over Thompson for at least the reasons discussed, as well as for the additional features they recite, and also define patentable subject matter.

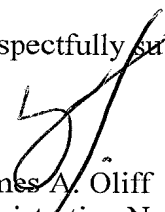
Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-12 be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6-12 and 19-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: January 11, 2002

Attachment:
Appendix

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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